UNCLASSIFIED

UNITED STATES GOVERNMENT

Memorandum

1 - Mr. C. D. DeLoach
1 - Mr. T. E. Bishop
1 - Mr. W. C. Sullivan

Mr. W. C. Sullivan

DATE: February 15, 1968

1 - Mr. G. C. Moore
1 - Mr. C. D. Brennan
1 - Mr. R. C. Putnam
1 - Mr. W. G. Shaw

C. D. Brennan

SUBJECT: COMMUNIST PARTY, USA
COUNTERINTELLIGENCE PROGRAM
INTERNAL SECURITY - COMMUNIST
(FREEDOMWAYS ASSOCIATES)

This is to recommend release of the attached article to sources in the mass news media field regarding Martin Luther King, Jr., leader of the Southern Christian Leadership Conference, who is scheduled to give the keynote address at a fund-raising activity sponsored by Communist Party-controlled Freedomways Associates, publishers of the magazine, "Freedomways," which is self-described as a quarterly review of the Negro Freedom Movement. The objective is to show that King appears to be courting the communists to bolster his forthcoming civil disobedience campaign in Washington, D. C., in the Spring of 1968.

The communist publication, "National Guardian," recently publicized the fact that King is to give the keynote address at the 100th anniversary celebration of the birth of the late W. E. B. DuBois, well-known Negro educator who joined the Communist Party, USA, at the age of 93. This affair is scheduled to be held on 2/23/68 in Carnegie Hall, New York City, and is sponsored by Freedomways Associates. The main purpose of this affair is to raise money to help finance "Freedomways" magazine, and information has been received indicating that with King as the keynote speaker the affair will undoubtedly be a financial success.

Although no information has been received as to the contents of King's speech, it is reasonable to assume that he will comment on the matter with which he is primarily concerned at the present time, namely, his campaign of civil disobedience planned for the Spring of 1968 in Washington, D. C.

Enclosure

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Memorandum to Mr. W. C. Sullivan
RE: COMMUNIST PARTY, USA
100-3-104-34

It is believed that the publicity given to King's appearance at Carnegie Hall on 2/23/68 in behalf of the communist publication, "Freedomways," could serve to show King's affinity for the communist movement and, thereby, place his planned civil disobedience campaign in the proper context.

The attached proposed article goes directly to the heart of this matter. It is proposed that this article be released to appropriate sources in the mass news media field through the Crime Records Division. The proposed article raises the question as to whether King is courting the communists to bolster his civil disobedience campaign. In this connection, it is pointed out that Hunter Pitts (Jack) O'Dell, former close associate of King's in the Southern Christian Leadership Conference, is one of the editors of "Freedomways." In 1963, King reluctantly released O'Dell from his post in the Southern Christian Leadership Conference when it became publicly known that O'Dell was a leading figure in the Communist Party. It is further pointed out in the proposed article that the Communist Party, with its years of experience in agitation and fomenting conflicts, would be a powerful ally for King in his efforts to promote civil disobedience in Washington, D. C.

RECOMMENDATION:

That this memorandum and the attached article be routed to the Crime Records Division for release to appropriate sources in the mass news media field.

2/16/68